

## FRENCH INDO-CHINA

in the colony, he announced it as an 8 per cent increase over preceding years, and as caused by the spread of communal education. The number of Indo-Chinese children of school age would usually be arrived at by dividing, according to the European method, the total population—approximately 21,000,000—by seven. Half of the three millions thus estimated are boys, so that at even the most optimistic calculation less a third of them receive an elementary education. In 1931 there were 40,000 girls receiving some degree of instruction—an even sadder statistic. Yet the budget shows an ever more honourable place allotted to education. In 1904 the percentage was 4.4 per cent, and in 1935 7.94 per cent was devoted to public instruction. This does not take into consideration the extraordinary total increase in budget expenditures.

Appropriate teachers and textbooks are still two perennial difficulties which are not yet solved. In creating a fifteen-volume series of textbooks (1924) in Annamite, Cambodian, and Laotian, the colony's service scored one of its greatest triumphs. The number of them sold—800,000 copies—testifies to their enormous success. A very low price makes them available to everyone, and their influence is far more widespread than that of the schools: twice as many have been sold as there are students in the colony. They aim to give the youth of Western culture accompanied by maps and in an comprehensible form. Sylvain Levi compared the revolution effected by these manuals to what the introduction of the ctaSy paper accomplished for rural France:

One may say Indo-Oiinese students to-day have at their disposal a

as complete and in some ways- superior to  
that of French  
at aa unprecedented!? low price—50  
centimes—and they **are**  
*to* who cannot afford to pay for  
them.<sup>1</sup>

A of for higher education is now being  
worked out\*  
in Indo-China are being criticized for their short-  
it **be moembeced** thai: a **totally new set of**  
**instructors**  
**for** **children h«ve** had to **be** formed in a  
compart-  
School **courses** have been increased, and a  
**of** and bulletins follow the teachers  
about^  
to md to Morm of the most  
recent methods.  
of tries to ascertain **whether or not**  
**this** knowledge lavished  
**upon**  
**la 1935** 7,734 in **the** atony's Normal  
**Schools.'**  
<sup>1</sup> & **üigjxX VA n, p. 142,**